



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CANNABIS BUSINESSES

# Vermont Social Equity Sub-Committee

Discussion Guide for  
10/21/21



# SOCIAL EQUITY

## SUB-COMMITTEE

- NACB
    - Gina Kranwinkel
    - Geoffrey Gallegos
    - Deneka Scott
  - CCBAC
    - Nader Hashim
    - Ashley Reynolds
    - TJ Donovan
    - Julio Thompson (TJ's designated)
- 
- State of VT (*in consultation*)
    - Xusana Davis, Executive Director of Racial Equity, Diversity
    - Lindsay Kurrle, Secretary – Agency of Commerce and Community Development

- Program Design (*stakeholder engagement plan*)
- Applicant Program Design & Execution
- Ongoing program administration including transferability of Social Equity licenses

## MILESTONES

- **OCTOBER 1, 2021**
  - Plan for reducing or eliminating fees for SE applicants
- **OCTOBER 15, 2021**
  - Develop criteria for SE applicants for the purpose of obtaining social equity loans and grants from the Cannabis Business Development Fund
- **NOVEMBER 2021**
  - Meet with the relevant subcommittees of the Advisory Committee and stakeholders to assist in the design of a social equity program

# AGENDA

- Call to order / attendance / acknowledgement of members of the public
- Public Comments received electronically
- Representatives for the Cannabis Social Equity Board
- Reinvestment of cannabis tax revenue to Disproportionately Impacted Communities
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Program open conversation
- Public Comments (in person)

# Approval of meeting minutes

- Monday, October 18, 2021

# Electronically submitted Public Comments (Summarized)

Ben Mervis (in association with friend and business partner, Craig Mitchell) [submission precis] :

We suggest that the subcommittee include **social consumption** in their discussion for special licenses and social equity exclusivity. People need a safe place to consume cannabis, as some people are not able to consume at their homes or at assisted living/long term care facilities. Without a private space where consumption is permitted, they are forced to break one rule or another. Social consumption provides a safe and legal opportunity for consumers (particularly first-time consumers) to learn about and experience products. Rules and regulations can be created that safeguard public health and safety (particularly in regards to transportation) – such as, a designated driver to join the group experience, or for that same group to use a ridesharing service. Other states allow for social consumption which we can use as examples. We believe consumption lounges will only benefit the state in creating a successful cannabis industry.

**Submit Public Comments to:**

- <https://ccb.vermont.gov/form/publicinputform>

# Representatives for the Cannabis Social Equity Board

***Members should be drawn from diverse backgrounds and geographic locations to represent the interest of communities of color and other marginalized groups throughout the State of Vermont. [List of 15 potential members]:***

- Representative from Disproportionately Impacted Communities (currently residing in community)
- Representative from Disproportionately Impacted Communities who is experienced in community development (currently residing in community)
- Person who was arrested, convicted or incarcerated for a cannabis-related offense (misdemeanor or felony)
- Family member of someone arrested, convicted or incarcerated for a cannabis-related offense (misdemeanor or felony)
- Social Worker from Disproportionately Impacted Communities (currently serving community)
- Educator from Disproportionately Impacted Communities (currently serving community)
- **Business Owner from Disproportionately Impacted Communities (residing or serving?)**
- Licensed social equity cannabis representative from one of the following sectors: retail, processor or cultivator
- Licensed social equity cannabis representative from one of the exclusive licenses: delivery or cooperative
- Licensed non-social equity cannabis representative
- Social equity candidate currently working in cannabis industry
- Department of Racial, Equity, Diversity
- Agency of Commerce and Community Development
- Member of the Social Equity Caucus
- Member of the Cannabis Control Board

# **AGENDA Item: Reinvestment of cannabis tax revenue to Disproportionately Impacted Communities**

Consider reinvestment of cannabis tax revenue into Cannabis  
Disproportionately Impacted Communities

# Reinvestment of Cannabis funds to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

- Create a Cannabis Disproportionately Impacted Communities fund
- Allocate 20% of cannabis tax revenue to the fund
- Fund devotes its resources to Cannabis Disproportionately Impacted Communities for:
  - Education
  - Legal Aid
  - Youth Development
  - Violence Prevention
- Cannabis Disproportionately Impacted Communities
  - What are some communities?



# AGENDA Item: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Program

Consider Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Program

# Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Program

What groups should be included?

What benefits should they receive?

# Public Comments

## In-Person Public Comments

**Provide written Public Comments**

**<https://ccb.vermont.gov/form/publicinputform>**